



HRVATSKO  
KATOLIČKO  
SVEUČILIŠTE  
ZAGREB  
UNIVERSITAS  
STUDIORUM  
CATHOLICA  
CROATICA  
ZAGREBIA

# Detailed Course Syllabus

**Academic year:**

2025/2026

**Semester:**

Summer semester

**Study Program:**

Sociologija  
(dvopredmetni) (R)  
(elective)  
Komunikologija (R)  
(elective)

**Year of study:**

1

## I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

**Name:** Man in the Context of Contemporary Technological Challenges

**Abbreviation:** IZBP250

**ECTS:** 4

**Code:** 278467

**Prerequisites:** No

*Total Course Workload*

**Teaching Mode**

**Total Hours**

Lecture

30

Seminar

15

**Class Time and Place:** HKS - according to the published schedule

## II. TEACHING STAFF

*Course Holder*

**Name and Surname:** Pavlič Richard

**Academic Degree:**

**Professional Title:** izvanredni profesor

**Contact E-mail:**

[richard.pavlic@unicath.hr](mailto:richard.pavlic@unicath.hr)

**Telephone:**

**Office Hours:** According to the published schedule

*Course Assistant*

## III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

**Teaching Language:** English

<p><b>Course Description</b></p>	<p>The course examines the relationship between theological anthropology and eschatology, focusing on their interaction with contemporary issues such as technology, globalization, and ecological challenges. Students will explore key theological concepts related to human existence, including the significance of humans created in the image of God and the implications of technological advancement.</p> <p>The course begins with an overview of theological anthropology, emphasizing human dignity and purpose. Students will critically assess the theology of creation considering advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence, paying particular attention to the ethical challenges these developments pose.</p> <p>Discussions will highlight the theology of hope in a world often marked by techno-pessimism, exploring how faith can foster resilience. Additionally, students will engage in debates between anthropocentrism and theocentrism concerning ecological responsibility and consider how technological progress affects human freedom.</p> <p>Overall, this course aims to equip students with a nuanced understanding of theological anthropology and eschatology while encouraging critical engagement with contemporary societal challenges.</p>
<p><b>Educational Outcomes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify key theological concepts related to theological anthropology and the theology of creation, including foundational principles.</li> <li>2. Explain the implications of technological progress on the theology of creation, demonstrating comprehension of its influence on human existence.</li> <li>3. Apply ethical frameworks to analyse case studies involving robotics and artificial intelligence, using theological principles in practical scenarios.</li> <li>4. Analyse the horizontal and vertical dimensions of human existence, examining their interaction within the context of globalization and communication.</li> <li>5. Evaluate the challenges posed by contemporary technologies on eschatological beliefs, assessing their impact on traditional views of death and eternal life.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Textbooks and Materials</i></p>	
<p><b>Required</b></p>	<p>Ratzinger, Joseph. <i>Eschatology: Death and Eternal Life</i>. 2nd ed., edited by Aidan Nichols, The Catholic University of America Press, 2007, pp. 1-164.</p>

Bargár, Pavol. "The Modern, the Postmodern, and . . . the Metamodern? Reflections on a Transforming Sensibility from the Perspective of Theological Anthropology." *Transformation*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2021, pp. 3–15.

Campbell, Heidi A. "Understanding the Relationship between Religion Online and Offline in a Networked Society." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. 80, no. 1, 2012, pp. 64–93.

Evans, John H. "The Academic Analysts of the Relationship Between Religion and Science." *Morals Not Knowledge: Recasting the Contemporary U.S. Conflict between Religion and Science*, 1st ed., University of California Press, 2018, pp. 44–62.

Francis. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Vatican Press, 2015.

Harrison, Peter. "'Science' and 'Religion': Constructing the Boundaries." *The Journal of Religion*, vol. 86, no. 1, 2006, pp. 81–106.

**Supplementary**

Hoffman, Andrew J., and Lloyd E. Sandelands. "Getting Right with Nature: Anthropocentrism, Ecocentrism, and Theocentrism." *Organization & Environment*, vol. 18, no. 2, 2005, pp. 141–62.

Pavlič, Richard, and Bruno Rukavina. "Laudato Si' – Socioeconomic Relevance for a Dynamic, Shifting, and Challenging Future." *Diacovensia*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2021, pp. 187–208.

Ratzinger, Joseph. *Introduction to Christianity*. 2nd ed., Ignatius Press, 2004.

Simkins, Ronald A. "The Bible and Anthropocentrism: Putting Humans in Their Place." *Dialectical Anthropology*, vol. 38, no. 4, 2014, pp. 397–413.

Turkle, Sherry. *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*. Basic Books, 2011.

Vogt, Markus, et al. "Sustainability and Climate Justice from a Theological Perspective." *RCC Perspectives*, no. 3, 2010, pp. 30–46.

*Examination and Grading*

**To Be Passed DA**

**Exclusively Continuous Assessment NE**

**Included in Average Grade DA**

**Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam**

**Examination Manner**

**Grading Manner**

**Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS**

**IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE**

[Predavanja]

#	Topic
1	Theological Anthropology - Theology of Creation
2	Theology of Creation and Technological Progress
3	Horizontal and Vertical Dimensions of Human Existence
4	Man and Robotics - Ethical and Theological Challenges
5	Biotechnology and the Limits of Human Creation
6	Globalization, Communication, Technology
7	Mid-term Exam 1
8	Attending a scientific or professional conference or panel discussion.

9	Eschatological Challenges of Contemporary Technologies
10	Theology of Hope in a World of Techno-Pessimism
11	Anthropocentrism vs. Theocentrism
12	Theological Anthropology and Cognitive Sciences
13	Theological Anthropology in the Context of Ecological Challenges
14	Technology and Human Freedom
15	Mid-term Exam 2